

Message Text

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13

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 EUR-12

ISO-00 OIC-02 /041 W

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R 171007Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8859

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: MANEUVERING FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF UNESCO EXBD.

1. CHAIRMANSHIP OF UNESCO EXBD WILL BE VOTED UPON AT NAIROBI FOR SUCCESSOR TO WYNTER WHOSE TERM WILL EXPIRE. EXBD WILL MEET AFTER ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS BY GENERAL CONFERENCE TO ELECT NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS.

2. IT IS POSSIBLE A WESTERN EUROPEAN WILL BE ELECTED AND ALREADY THERE ARE TWO ACTIVE CANDIDATES. ONE IS AMBASSADOR VAN USSEL, BELGIAN PERMREP AND EXBD MEMBER- AND THE OTHER IS LEONARD MARTIN, UK MINISTER OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT AND BOARD MEMBER. BOTH VAN USSEL AND MARTIN HAVE PERSONALLY APPROACHED PERMREP TO INFORM HIM OF THEIR INTEREST IN BEING CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD. MARTIN PAID A SPECIAL CALL DURING RECENT VISIT TO PARIS TO PRESS HIS CASE. VAN USSEL NOTES THAT HE ACTIVELY ASSISTED US LAST SEPTEMBER WHEN HE AGREED TO CO-SPONSOR AND HELP MANAGE THE PRO-ISRAEL RESOLUTION ON UNESCO REGIONS THAT WAS ULTIMATELY ADOPTED.

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3. IN ANY CASE, PROBLEM IS PRIMARILY FOR THE NINE TO

DECIDE ON ONE CANDIDATE. THIS IS WHAT WE TOLD BOTH MARTIN AND VAN USSEL AND THEY, BOTH OLD PROS, FULLY REALIZE WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO.

4. ANOTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATE IS MAJID RAHNEMA, IRANIAN BOARD MEMBER. ALTHOUGH NOTHING FORMAL HAS BEEN SAID, RUMORS PERSIST THAT HE IS INTERESTED.

5. IT IS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE EASTERN EUROPEANS WILL NOT PRESENT A CANDIDATE ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WILL HAVE THE CHAIRMANSHIP NEXT TIME AROUND. NO SUCH UNDERSTANDING AT PRESENT EXISTS, BUT THEY WILL SURELY PRESS FOR ONE.

6. PERMDEL RECOMMENDS WE MERELY KEEP OUR EYES OPEN AND EARS TO GROUND AT THIS EARLY DATE. NEW EXBD MEMBER SHOULD BE CAUTIONED NOT TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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